United Nations A/58/830

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 June 2004
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 147

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Fouad **Rajeh** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 40th, 41st and 51st meetings, on 3 and 4 May and 3 June 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/58/SR.40, 41 and 51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (A/58/642 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/58/657);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and budget for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/58/705);

(d) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/58/759 and Add.2).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.70

4. At its 51st meeting, on 3 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/58/L.70), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Australia.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.70 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1541 (2004) of 29 April 2004,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 57/331 of 18 June 2003,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 15 April 2004, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 44.9 million United States dollars, representing some 8 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-three Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

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[1] A/58/642 and Corr.1, A/58/657 and A/58/705.

[2] A/58/759 and Add.2.

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

5. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005

13. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 44,041,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, inclusive of 41,860,000 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 1,783,200 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 398,000 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

14. *Decides also* to apportion among Member States the amount of 44,041,200 dollars at a monthly rate of 3,670,100 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in its resolution 55/235 of 23 December 2000, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolution 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and updated in resolution 58/256 of 23 December 2003, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2004

[3] A/58/759 and Add.2.

[4] A/58/642 and Corr.1.

and 2005 as set out in its resolution 58/1 B of 23 December 2003, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

15. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 3,191,600 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,908,900 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 260,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 22,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

16. *Decides* that for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 5,953,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2003, in accordance with the levels set out in resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 and 57/290 A of 20 December 2002, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000 and 57/4 B of 20 December 2002;

17. *Decides also* that for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 5,953,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2003, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 16 above;

18. *Decides further* that the decrease of 444,800 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2003 shall be set off against the credits from the amount referred to in paragraphs 16 and 17 above;

19. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

20. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

21. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".